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## **PREFACE**

Oil spill incidents have the potential to cause significant environmental injuries to a wide range of natural resources and services. The extent of injuries resulting from an incident depends upon such factors as the circumstances of the incident and the prevailing environmental conditions. Preventing the discharge of oil, or a threat of such a discharge, is the most logical means of avoiding problems associated with oil spills. However, when oil spill incidents cannot be prevented, measures must be in place to address effects resulting from the incident.

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) was established to provide such measures. OPA highlights the initial response activities needed to contain and clean-up oil, and protect natural resources and services from the imminent effects of oil. OPA also authorizes Natural Resource Damage Assessments (NRDA) to address residual injuries resulting from the incident. NRDA regulations promulgated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) became effective February 5, 1996 (15 CFR Part 990).

This document focuses on the early or preliminary activities for RDAs under OPA, as outlined in the Preassessment Phase of the NRDA regulations developed by NOAA. The information gained through preassessment activities should serve as the foundation for a more detailed assessment of injuries to natural resources and services affected by oil spill incidents.

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

ACP	Area Contingency Plan
APC	Area Planning Committee
APHA	American Public Health Association
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
AQUIRE	AQUatic Toxicity Information REtrieval System
CHRIS	Chemical Hazard Response Information System
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended
ERT	Emergency Response Team
FUND	Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund
LAT	Lead Administrative Trustee
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAWQA	National Water Quality Assessment Program
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRDA	Natural Resource Damage Assessment
OPA	Oil Pollution Act of 1990
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
QA	Quality Assurance
RP	Responsible Party
RRT	Regional Response Team
SSC	Scientific Support Coordinator
TAT	Technical Assistance Team
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological